

- Pseudocuma bistriata*, G. O. Sars, "Om den aberrante Krebsdyrgruppe Cumaceer" (Vid. Selsk. Forhandl. 1864), p. 70.
 ? *Cyrianassa longicornis*, Spence Bate, Nat. Hist. Review, vol. v. 1858, p. 203.
Cuma bella, Meinert, "Crust. Isop. Amphip. et Decapoda Daniæ" (Naturhist. Tidssk. 3 R. 11 B. 1877), p. 179.
Cuma cercaria, Meinert, "Crust. Isop. Amphip. et Decapoda Daniæ" (Naturhist. Tidssk. 3 R. 12 B. 1880), p. 497.
Pseudocuma cercaria, G. O. Sars, Middelhavets Cumaceer, 1879, p. 114, pls. xl.-xlii.

This small species seems to be the most numerically abundant of the Cumacea in the British seas. Its distribution is as follows:—

Belgium (*Van Beneden*); Denmark (*Meinert*); Norway, from Christiania to the Lofoten Islands (*G. O. Sars*); Mediterranean, at Goletta, Messina, and Syracuse (*G. O. Sars*).

I can myself testify to the following localities:—Whitby, Yorkshire, and Seaton Carew, County Durham (*A. M. N.*); Sunderland (*G. S. Brady*); Cumbrae, Firth of Clyde (*D. Robertson*); Tarbert, Loch Fyne (*Fishery Board Laboratory*); Naples (*Zool. Stat.*).

It is a shallow-water form, found on a sandy bottom, usually in 0-10 fathoms. Now first recorded as British.

XII.—Description of a new Butterfly allied to *Vanessa antiopa*.

By ARTHUR G. BUTLER, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c.

FOR some years past I have held the view that what is generally understood by the term species (that is to say, a well-defined, distinct, and constant type, having no near allies) is non-existent in the Lepidoptera, and that the nearest approach to it in this order is a constant, though but slightly differing, race or local form—that genera, in fact, consist wholly of a gradational series of such forms.

In opposition to this view certain "species" are cited as isolated, or in no way united by existing intergrades to their nearest allies, from which, moreover, they show such wide differences that the existence of intergrades is regarded as highly improbable. One of the best known and, at the same time, widely distributed of these apparently isolated species is *Vanessa antiopa*, which, although slightly modified locally in size and tint (the Central-American form being usually smaller and the North-American larger and more heavily speckled than the European type), yet has no described allies

nearer than the blue-belted *V. glauconia*, *charonia*, and *haronica*.

The forms differing from the type of *V. antiopa*—*V. hygiea*, from Europe, and *V. Lintneri*, from the United States—are regarded, with every likelihood of being right, as aberrations of that species; judging from Hübner's figure (lettered "*antiopa*") and Fitch's description, these aberrations appear to be very similar, differing chiefly from the normal form in the absence of many of the blue spots and the slightly wider yellow border of all the wings.

The following form is less likely to be a variety of *V. antiopa* than the others, since the modification of the border is not uniform and at the same time is far more remarkable; it was obtained by the Hon. Walter De Rothschild from a collection of Lepidoptera chiefly from British Honduras, but with which the collector had carelessly placed species obtained in British Guiana. At the same time, as the small form of the allied *V. antiopa* occurs in Mexico and Guatemala, it is more probable that the former locality is the correct one than the latter.

Vanessa Thomsonii, n. sp.

Colouring darker than in *V. antiopa*; primaries with pale straw-coloured outer border, about as wide as in that species, but heavily mottled with black, especially upon the veins; a subapical oblique yellow spot followed by five smaller decreasing and less distinct spots of the same colour, but followed by whitish scales, the whole forming an elbowed series; costa speckled with yellowish in the centre: secondaries with the basal three fifths of the same dark dull chocolate-brown as the primaries, the external two fifths, which are separated by a sharply defined, regularly dentate-sinuate line from costa to anal angle, straw-yellow, rather heavily mottled with black, but densely so upon the tail. Below, the general colouring is sericeous dark grey-brown, rather browner on the primaries than on the secondaries, striated throughout with intense black; the borders of the wings are broadly paler, of more equal width than above, bounded internally by two or three white points, and mottled with white; the fringe ochreous, interrupted by the black veins. Expanse of wings 67 millim.

British Honduras? (coll. Hon. W. De Rothschild).

It will be seen that the outer border of the secondaries in this insect is twice the width of that of the primaries.